# **APPLIANCES & ENERGY**

- Don't let frost build up in the freezer.
- Check temperatures inside refrigerator and freezer. A setting between 37 degrees and 42 degrees for refrigerators and a temperature between 0 degrees and 5 degrees are best for freezers.
- Provide space beneath, behind and on top of refrigerator to allow heated air to escape.
- Make sure the refrigerator and freezer door seals are tight.
- Open refrigerator and freezer doors as little as possible.
- Avoid over-crowding on shelves in refrigerator. However, if you have a separate freezer, keep as full as possible.
- Let hot food cool before placing in the refrigerator
- When cooking, use a small appliance such as an electric skillet or microwave oven when you can.
- Set high settings only to bring food to the steaming point then switch to a lower temperature.
- Thaw frozen foods to reduce cooking time.
- Use lids on pots and pans and match size of pan to size of burner.
- If you have an electric range, turn burner off several minutes before food is cooked.
- When using the oven, cook more than one item at a time.

- Do not overload washer, but avoid small loads.
- Use coolest setting that will get clothes clean.
- Use cold water in rinse cycle.
- Separate drying loads according to weight and type of cloth.
- Make sure lint trap is clean.
- Don't over-dry clothes.
- Vent dryer to outside to reduce heat and moisture.
- Set water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.
- Fix any leaky faucets.
- Take a shower instead of a tub bath.
- If removing interior storms during summer months, reinstall before heating season.
- Do not cover wind turbine vents.
- Open foundation vents unless severe weather. Ventilation is very important because it prevents moisture from building up. If moisture accumulates, it can damage your home. It can also soak the insulation, reducing its effectiveness.
- If using an automatic dishwasher, always use the "energy saver" cycle.
- Do not stack items on top of the refrigerator. This keeps heat from escaping and causes motor to run longer using more electricity.



# Louisville Metro Housing & Community Development Division



Weatherization
Assistance Program
Energy Saving Tips

The Department of Housing and Family Services, Housing and Community Development Division offers a Weatherization Assistance Program to provide energy-related repairs to low-income residents of the Louisville Metro area.

Based on the current rates, Weatherization Assistance lowers the average annual energy costs by \$218 per household. In addition to the Weatherization Assistance Program, we offer these simple "energy saving tips" to assist in lowering energy costs for *everyone*.

Metro Weatherization Program information line is (502)574-3107.

## **ENERGY SAVING TIPS**

We need heat in cold weather for our health and comfort. We use so much heat that it is the greatest consumer of energy in our homes. If we can use heat more efficiently, we will use less energy keeping warm – and we will save money on our energy bills. One of the best ways to save energy is to capture your heat – keeping cold air out of your home. This is done through the **Weatherization Program**. For people with air conditioning, warm weather can bring some of the highest utility bills of the year. There are other ways to reduce the heat and increase comfort in hot weather.

**Insulation** is the best way to stop radiation losses through walls and roof. Insulation will save you energy.

**Weatherization** is for both the **heating** and **cooling season**. Once weatherization measures have been completed, energy savings are forthcoming.

#### "COOL WEATHER SEASON"

- In the cool weather months, set daytime temperature to 68 degrees and nighttime temperature to 65.
- Wear layers of clothing and dress warm.
- Close doors to rooms that are not in use.
- On sunny days, open curtains on the sunny side of the house to capture the heat from the sun. After dark and on gloomy days, keep curtains closed.
- DO NOT use a gas cook stove or oven to help heat the house. It can overheat and deplete the oxygen supply in the house so much that deadly fumes, known as "carbon monoxide", are generated.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure damper is closed when not in use.
- Check/replace furnace filters monthly.
- Have furnace cleaned and serviced before each heating season.
- DO NOT use a portable kerosene heater without proper ventilation. Someone should be in the room and awake at all times during use.
- House should not be sealed so tightly that inside air is not able to circulate. This can deprive you of oxygen.
- In cold weather, humidify your air it will help you feel warmer.

### "WARM WEATHER SEASON"

- In hot weather, set your air conditioner thermostat 10 degrees below the outdoor temperature.
- When it is cooler outside than it is inside, open the tops and bottoms of all windows at least 2" to let the heat escape and draw cool air in.
- When it is warmer outside than it is inside, open the top halves of the windows in the top story an inch or 2 and keep the rest of the windows closed.
- Close shades or drapes on the sunny side of the house to keep sunlight out.
- Turn off lights when not in use as they generate heat.
- Cook less and cook in cooler hours of the day.
- Check refrigerator to insure tight seal.
- Use ceiling fans to create cooling breeze.
- Keep air conditioner filter clean and check at least once a month.
- Make sure there are no obstructions around the air conditioner – both inside and out.
- Do not forget to shut all windows and doors during operation of air conditioner.

